

REMARKS

This is responsive to the Office communication mailed on November 22, 2005. In that communication, it stated that the Amendment filed on November 9, 2005 was non-responsive since it amended the claims such that all pending claims were drawn to a non-elected invention as defined in the Response that was filed by applicant on December 21, 2001.

Independent claim 1, along with dependent claims 26 and 27 have been amended to include back the word "preserving" and the word "preserved" where they were deleted in the last Amendment.

Regarding the communication's statement that all pending claims are now drawn to a non-elected invention is not understood, since claims 36-44, 47, 48 and 51-55 were not amended in relation to any word relating to "preserving" the mucosa tissue.

In view of the above, it is now believed that the Amendment filed on November 9, 2005 along with this present Amendment places the claims in form to the elected invention and believes that this Amendment makes the Amendment filed on November 9, 2005 responsive.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

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